IN THE CLAIMS :

Please amend the claims shown below in clean format as follows:

1. (amended) A method of protecting multiple feeder circuits fed from a shared electrical distribution system, comprising:

providing a bypass line, said bypass line being configured to bypass corresponding separable circuit breaker contacts in each of a plurality of feeder circuits between a load side and a line side of the electrical distribution system;

providing bypass switches in said bypass line, said bypass switches being configured to selectively couple each of the feeder circuits one at a time to said bypass line;

providing a fault lockout protection controller coupled to said bypass line;

controlling said fault lockout protection controller to detect the existence of a fault condition on said load side of the feeder circuit selectively coupled to said bypass line prior to closing said corresponding separable circuit breaker contacts of the selectively coupled feeder circuit; and

controlling said fault lockout protection controller to prevent closure of said corresponding separable circuit breaker contacts upon detection of said fault condition.

9. (amended) An electric motor control center, comprising

a plurality of electric motors;

a motor starter for each electric motor of said plurality of electric motors, said plurality of electric motors being electrically connectable to a common electrical distribution system by a corresponding motor starter;

a bypass line, said bypass line being configured to bypass each said motor starter between a load side and a line side of said common electrical distribution system;

bypass switches in said bypass line, each of said bypass switches being configured to selectively couple said each electric motor one at a time to said bypass line;

a logic sequence controller, said logic sequence controller being configured to selectively control opening and closing each of said motor starters and said bypass switches; and

a fault lockout protection controller coupled to said bypass line, said fault lockout protection being configured to selectively detect the existence of a fault condition on said load side at said each electric motor prior to closing said corresponding motor starter, and to selectively prevent closure of each said corresponding motor starter for each of said plurality of electric motors upon detection of said fault condition.

10. (amended) The electric motor control center of claim 9, wherein said fault lockout protection controller detects said fault condition when selectively coupled to a corresponding electric motor by said logic sequence controller closing a corresponding bypass switch.

21. (amended) A method of protecting a feeder circuit, comprising:

blocking corresponding separable contacts of each feeder circuit of a plurality of feeder circuits in an electrical distribution system from closing;

initiating a fault detection sequence in a fault lockout protection controller, said fault lockout protection controller being configured to detect the existence of a fault condition on a load side of each of said corresponding separable contacts;

maintaining said corresponding separable contacts blocked from closing upon detection that said fault condition is present; and

unblocking said corresponding separable contacts from closing upon detection that said fault condition is not present.

22. (amended) The method of claim 21, wherein said blocking corresponding separable contacts of said each feeder circuit of said plurality of feeder circuits in said electrical distribution system from closing comprises:

providing means for preventing closure of said corresponding separable breaker contacts selected from the group consisting of an under voltage protection module and a blocking solenoid module.